Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 /068 W

-----050424Z 022509 /14

R 032151Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5964 INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA AMEMBASSY MANAGUA AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 1049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, OAS, ES, HO

SUBJECT: OAS SECGEN VISITS TEGUCIGALPA

1. OAS SECGEN ORFILA VISITED TEGUCIGALPA MARCH 1-2 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS

IN ATTEMPT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT IN THE HONDURAS/EL SAVLADOR DISPUTE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN SEVERAL PRESS CONFERENCES THAT EL SALVADOR WOULD SOON RATIFY THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT AND THAT PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ORFILA STATED THAT HONDURAS' RAPID RATIFICATION OF THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT CAUSED A GOOD IMPRESSION IN WASHINGTON. ORFILA STATED THAT, CONTRARY TO RUMOR, NEITHER COUNTRY HAD ASKED HIM TO BE THE MEDIATOR AND THAT HE COULD NOT DO SO GIVEN HIS POSITION IN THE OAS.

2. ORFILA MET PRIVATELY WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR AND FONMIN PALMA DURING HIS VISIT. THE FONMIN GAVE ORFILA A RECEPTION WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SOME MINISTERS AND FORMER DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING TWO EX-FONMINS. ORFILA RECIPROCATED BY GIVING A LUNCHEON ON MARCH 2. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. COMMENT. ORFILA IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE FOR OVER 22 YEARS. I HAD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH HIM PRIOR TO THE RECEPTION GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY THE FONMIN. HE TOLD ME THAT INFORMATION FROM EL SALVADOR INDICATED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING POST-ELECTION PROBLEMS, THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WOULD RATIFY THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT ON MARCH 7. AT THE MARCH 2 LUNCHEON,

HE REITERATED THAT VIEW. COLONEL CESAR ELVIR SIERRA, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ALSO STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD RATIFICATION WOULD TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 7.
BECKER

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TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO, OAS, (ORFILA, ALEJANDRO)

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